

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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CG-00 COA-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 RSR-01 /128 W

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R 271701Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8368

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4540

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: TORRIJOS STATEMENT CONCERNING CANAL ZONE GOVERNOR

REF: BLACKEN,/HOWARD TELCON AUGUST 26

1. GENERAL TORRIJOS MADE A STATEMENT AUGUST 25 WHICH WAS REPORTED ON TELEVISION THAT DAY AND IN THE DOMINICAL, SUNDAY EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED EL PANAMA AMERICA ON AUGUST 26. A TRANSLATION OF THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED IN DOMINICAL FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH A DELICATE AND IMPORTANT OPERATION FOR THE WORLD AS THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CANAL IS DIRECTED BY A NORTH AMERICAN OFFICIAL OF SUCH LITTLE JUDGMENT. THE PROBLEM OF THE STRIKES AND THE LABOR COMPLAINTS OF THE PILOTS OF THE SHIPS THAT PASS DEMONSTRATES THAT NOT EVEN NORTH AMERICAN EMPLOYEES ACCEPT A MASTER WITH A FEUDAL AND COLONIALISTIC MENTALITY WHO TREATS THEM WITH CAPRICE AND INJUSTICE.

THE SYSTEM OF CANAL ADMINISTRATION REMAINS WITH THE STAMP OF THE YEAR 1914 WHEN THE WATERWAY WAS INAUGURATED. THIS SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION HAS THE SAME FUTURE OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF  
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LOCKS, THAT IS, TO BECOME OBSOLETE.

THE FEUDAL GOVERNOR IN HIS TURN PAYS THE CONSEQUENCES FOR HIS DESPOTIC TREATMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND FOR NOT EMPLOYING PANAMANIAN PILOTS WHO WORK WITH EQUAL OR GREAT EFFICIENCY.

PANAMANIAN WHO WORK IN THE CANAL ZONE UNDERSTAND THEY CANNOT ACT AGAINST THE INSTALLATIONS WHICH WILL BE ONE DAY ADMINISTERED BY OTHER PANAMANIAN.

THE BAD NAME WHICH THE SO-CALLED "GOVERNOR" IS GIVING TO THE CANAL IN WORLD COMMERCE, INDICATES THE LACK OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CHOOSES ITS ADMINISTRATORS OF THIS WORK. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS TYPICAL TORRIJOS BEHAVIOR - SHOOTING FROM THE HIP AT "TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY." APPARENTLY HE COULD NOT RESIST TEMPTATION OF STRIKING OUT ONCE AGAIN AT IDEA OF U S "GOVERNOR" IN PANAMANIAN TERRITORY AND OF VENTING HIS PERSONAL ANIMOSITY AT SAME TIME. PANAMANIAN RESENTMENT OF REPEATED INFERENCES IN U S PRESS THAT U S OFFICIALS BELIEVE PANAMANIAN ARE NOT CAPABLE OF RUNNING CANAL RUNS VERY DEEP AND UNTIL NOW PANAMANIAN HAD NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE VENT TO THIS RESENTMENT. SPECTACLE OF MORE THAN 100 SHIPS WAITING TO TRANSIT CANAL GAVE TORRIJOS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DISPARAGE CONCEPT THAT ONLY U S CAN OPERATE CANAL EFFICIENTLY. ONE OF IRONIES OF SITUATION IS THAT GOVERNOR WANTS TO REVISE PROCEDURES THEREBY ENABLING HIM TO TRAIN AND HIRE PANAMANIAN PILOTS AND IT IS PILOTS ASSOCIATION WHICH IS BLOCKING THE STEP.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PN  
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